

OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS
Summary of State Board of Education Items
February 19-20, 2009

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

To Approve a Revision to the Licensure Guidelines to Remove the 18-Hour Allowance as an Option for Adding Supplemental Endorsements to a Standard License as Recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development (cleared the Administrative Procedures Act with no comments)

Specifications:

In June of this year, the United States Department of Education did a highly qualified No Child Left Behind (NCLB) audit at MDE. One of their findings stated that Mississippi was out of compliance with NCLB guidelines in allowing core subject endorsements to be added to a five-year standard teaching license by completion of 18-hours of college coursework with a grade of C or higher. Their explanation was that the 18-hour coursework allowance was not sufficient and did not meet NCLB standards for highly qualified.

The Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development discussed this proposal at the past two Commission meetings since the audit. On November 6, 2008, the Commission voted to recommend to the State Board removal of the 18-hour coursework option of adding supplemental endorsements to comply with NCLB guidance.

Background Information:

After the inception of No Child Left Behind, the State Board approved several options for adding supplemental endorsement to a standard license. These options were approved so that teachers of core subjects could add the necessary license endorsements in order to become highly qualified in all subjects that they were teaching. Prior to NCLB, guidelines allowed teachers to add supplemental endorsements with 18-hours of college coursework. In 2002, the State Board approved the Commission's recommendation to change the coursework requirement to 21-hours for a supplemental endorsement, however, the policy says that if the teacher had earned 18-hours of pure subject content coursework prior to September 1, 2004, they could still add the endorsement with 18-hours. If they did not have the 18 hours by that date, they must have 21-hours to add the endorsement. Mississippi teachers have had several years now to utilize that option if they had the 18-hour qualification. NCLB says 18-hours is not enough coursework in the content area to be a highly qualified teacher. This recommendation from the Commission requests the removal of the 18-hour allowance and all supplemental endorsements added with coursework will require 21-hours only.

Attachments:

1. Current Licensure guidelines page 29 showing acceptable processes for adding supplemental endorsements
2. Current Licensure guidelines page 38 showing the state board approved definition of a highly qualified Veteran teacher

SUPPLEMENTAL ENDORSEMENTS <i>(See Appendix A for Supplemental Endorsement Areas that may be added.)</i>			
License	Requirements	Validity	Renewal#
SUPPLEMENTAL ENDORSEMENT AREAS ADDED TO A STANDARD OR THREE YEAR EDUCATOR LICENSE Note: All supplemental endorsements are added at the Class A level. Note: Renewal requirements are based upon the highest level of license. Note: Supplemental endorsements may not be added to a one year educator license, two year reciprocity license, JROTC License, or an expert citizen license. * Academic endorsements may not be added to the initial 3-year Vocational Education license	1. Hold a bachelor's degree and a valid standard or three year Mississippi license. 2. Prior to September 1, 2004, earn a minimum of eighteen (18) semester hours (After September 1, 2004, a minimum of 21 semester hours is required.) in a content area (with a grade of "C" or higher) OR Institutional Program Verification documenting completion of a program in an additional content area through a state-approved or regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning OR Meet the minimum score on the Praxis II Specialty Area Test OR Complete MDE approved course, module or workshop OR National Board Certification in each subject area taught *See Appendix A for specific information.	Based upon validity period of standard license currently held	<i>Five Year Class A License Renewal:</i> Ten (10) continuing education units (CEUs) in content or job/skill related area OR Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area AND Five (5) continuing education units (CEUs) in content or job/skill related area OR Six (6) semester hours in content or job/skill related area <i>Five Year Class AA or Higher License Renewal:</i> Three (3) hours in content or job/skill related area OR Five (5) continuing education units (CEUs) or equivalent in content or job/skill related area <i>(Completion of these renewal requirements will also renew all existing five year educator licenses)</i>

VETERAN TEACHERS

The “No Child Left Behind Act” of 2001 (NCLB Act) mandates that teachers *not new* to the profession (employed in a Mississippi public school before or on the first day of school, 2002-2003) have until the end of the 2005-2006 school year to meet the following “highly qualified” status:

Veteran Elementary K-6

- Hold at least a bachelor’s degree
- Hold at least a valid Class A Educator License
- Teach in a grade covered by that license

Veteran Middle 7-8

- Hold at least a bachelor’s degree
- Hold at least a Class A Educator License with an endorsement for every core academic subject taught (*English, reading, language arts, mathematics, science, foreign language, civics, government, economics, arts, history, geography*)

Options for “Highly Qualified” Status for Middle School 7-8:

- Pass the Praxis II (specialty-area assessment), **OR**
- Pass the Praxis II (specialty-area assessment for middle school), **OR**
- Hold National Board Certification in each core academic subject taught, **OR**
- Hold a master’s degree in each core academic subject taught, **OR**
- Obtain an endorsement with a minimum of ~~18 hours (before 9/1/04)~~ or 21 hours (~~after 9/1/04~~) with a grade of “C” or higher in each core academic subject taught (*English, reading, language arts, mathematics, science, foreign language, civics, government, economics, arts, history, geography*)

Veteran Secondary School 9-12

- Hold at least a bachelor’s degree
- Hold at least a Class A Educator License with an endorsement for every core academic subject taught (*English, reading, language arts, mathematics, science, foreign language, civics, government, economics, arts, history, geography*)

Options for “Highly Qualified” Status for Secondary School 9-12:

- Pass the Praxis II (specialty-area assessment), **OR**
- Pass Praxis II (specialty-area assessment for middle school available 9/04), **OR**
- Hold National Board Certification in each core academic subject taught, ~~OR~~
- Hold a master’s degree in each core academic subject taught, **OR**
- Obtain an endorsement with a minimum of ~~18 hours (before 9/1/04)~~ or 21 hours (~~after 9/1/04~~) with a grade of “C” or higher for each core academic subject taught

Note: For more clarification of “Highly Qualified” definition visit www.mde.k12.ms.us/ed_licensure/highly_qualified_teacher.html